

REMARKS

This Amendment is in response to the Office Action dated July 13, 2005. In the Office Action, claims 1-7, 9, 10 and 15-23 were rejected, claim 8 was objected to and claims 11-14 were withdrawn from consideration. With this Amendment, claims 1 and 23 are amended, claims 15-22 are canceled and claims 24-31 are new. Reconsideration and allowance of all pending claims is respectfully requested. In addition, it is respectfully submitted that even though new claims are added, the same amounts of claims are added that are canceled. Therefore, no extra claim fee is required.

I. INTERVIEW SUMMARY

Applicant's attorney would like to thank the Examiner for the courtesies extended during a telephone interview on October 4, 2005. During this interview, Applicant's attorney and the Examiner discussed the Tangren reference (US 5,796,553) and the Pal et al. reference (US 4,760,478). The amendments to the claims take into consideration our discussion pertaining to subject matter allowable over the prior art. It is believed that all pending claims are in condition for allowance.

II. DRAWING OBJECTIONS AND CLAIM REJECTIONS

In paragraph two of the Office Action, the drawings were objected to. Accordingly, the Specification has been amended and replacement figures for FIGS. 3 and 4 accompany this response.

In paragraph four of the Office Action, claims 9-10 and 18-20 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which Applicant regards as the invention. This rejection is moot in view of the amendment to claim 1 and the cancellation of claims 15-22. It is respectfully submitted that this rejection be withdrawn.

In paragraph six of the Office Action, claims 1-7 and 15-23 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by Tangren. Claims 1 and 23 are amended in accordance with

FIGS. 2-5 and the Specification and claims 15-22 are canceled. It is respectfully submitted that Tangren fails to teach or suggest all of the claim elements of independent claims 1 and 23. In particular, Tangren fails to teach or suggest that "the peak strain region is located at least partially along the longitudinal axis" as claimed in claims 1 and 23. In addition, Tangren also fails to teach or suggest "a strain focusing aperture located within the peak strain region" as claimed in claim 23.

It is respectfully submitted that claims 1 and 23 are allowable over the prior art. In addition, it is respectfully submitted that dependent claims 2-7 and new dependent claims 24-31 are also in condition for allowance as depending on allowable base claims.

All pending claims 1-10 and 23-31 are in condition for allowance. Favorable action is respectfully requested.

The Director is authorized to charge any fee deficiency required by this paper or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 23-1123.

Respectfully submitted,

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